

Elizabeth Howell House
842 Dayton Street
Cincinnati
Hamilton County
Ohio

HABS No. OH-2200-J

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. OH-2200-J

ELIZABETH HOWELL HOUSE

Location: 842 Dayton Street, Cincinnati,
Hamilton County, Ohio

Within the Dayton Historic District, USGS
Covington Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator
Coordinates: 16.713800.4332700, 16.713780.4332230,
16. 713250.4332410 and 16.713110.4332750

Present Owner: Mollie and Miles Barnes

Present Occupant: Mollie and Miles Barnes and tenants

Present Use: Private Dwelling

Significance: This is a large, elegant house, typical of more costly later nineteenth century houses built in Cincinnati. It is one of several such houses built at about the same time in what is now designated the Dayton Street Historic Interest Area, and is important as part of the architectural context of its time and place.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. The house stands on a parcel of land originally sold on October 13, 1794 to Jonathan Dayton of Elizabethtown, New Jersey, for \$42,897.00 by John Cleves Symmes, who obtained the original patent for the Miami Purchase from the United States Congress. William Henry Harrison, ninth President of the United States, on October 1, 1818, as an executor of the estate of Symmes, and as then Governor of the Indiana Territory, re-negotiated the sale, inasmuch as the original deed was said to have been lost. Because of the riots and fire of 1884, the records contained in the Hamilton County Court House were either partially or totally destroyed, thus making the present records an incomplete source of information. It is known from the remaining records that Elizabeth Howell owned the property from April 18, 1878 to July 30, 1892, during which time it is assumed that she built the house. There are no known records of a house existing on the land previous to the earlier date. Between 1892 and the present there have been numerous owners, among whom were John Hauck and his son Louis Hauck.
2. Date of erection: According to the sale prices as recorded in the Hamilton County Court House Deed Books, Elizabeth Howell purchased the land on April 16, 1878 for \$5012.00 and sold it on July 30, 1892 for \$13,000. Thus it is reasonable to deduce that the house was erected between those dates.
3. Architect: Unknown

4. Alterations and additions: None of apparent significance.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the House:

There is no known biography of Elizabeth Howell. Louis Hauck was born on June 30, 1866. Upon the death of his father on June 4, 1896, he inherited the house as well as a partial interest in the John Hauck Brewing Co. which his father had founded. He continued to reside at the house until his death on April 30, 1942.

Mme. Schuman-Heink, the internationally renowned opera singer in the era prior to the First World War, was a frequent guest of Louis Hauck at those times she came to Cincinnati to perform at Music Hall. As a courtesy to his neighbors, Louis Hauck would occasionally invite them into his house to hear her sing. Alfred Hilberg, who at that time was a young man living directly to the west of Louis Hauck, recalled hearing her sing on those occasions.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: None known.

2. Bibliography:

Purchase by Elizabeth Howell: Deed Book 482, p. 358.

Purchase by John Hauck: Deed Book 734, p. 584.

Verbal history by Alfred Hilberg given in July of 1974.

For further information on John Hauck see the bibliography given in the report on the house at 812 Dayton Street (Habs No. OH-2200-B).

Prepared by: Carl A. Saladino
Project Historian
National Park Service
August, 1974

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This house, of typical side-hall plan, has a simple Italianate facade.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: This three-bay house, approximately 23'-0" by 96'-0" is two-and-a-half stories high.

2. Foundation: Brick and stone.
 3. Wall construction, finish and color: The front is limestone, and the remaining exterior walls are brick. All surfaces are now painted gray.
 4. Structural system, framing: Masonry bearing walls.
 5. Porches, stoops: Stone entrance stoop on south front. Concrete stoops on east and north. Porch of concrete added on east side.
 6. Chimneys: Four brick chimneys with exposed clay tile flue liners in the east side wall.
 7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Recessed front entrance doorway with Italianate stone surround. Paired exterior five-paneled wooden doors with raised moldings fold into pockets at the side of the vestibule. Large wooden inner door has raised moldings, two lower panels, and glass upper panel. Leaded glass transom above.
 - b. Windows: Double-hung with two-over-one-light on south front and two-over-two-light sash elsewhere. There is a leaded and colored glass window with a central figure at the landing of the rear service stair.
 8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable on the front block and shed on the rear wing (sloping the short dimension of the house from west to east). All roofs are covered with metal standing seam roofing.
 - b. Cornice: Bracketed cornice, painted.
- C. Description of Interior:
1. Floor plans:
 - a. Basement: Numerous storage, wash and furnace rooms.
 - b. First floor: Side-hall plan with a double parlor (now two rooms) on the east. To the rear of these rooms are two rooms separated by a rear service stair, and at the rear of the house are the kitchen and a bath. This is now one apartment.
 - c. Second floor: There are four bedrooms toward front of the house and two bedrooms and a bath toward the rear of the house, which are beyond the rear service stair.
 - d. Third floor: There are two bedrooms in the front block. All bedrooms on the upper floors are now rental rooms.

2. Stairways: The main stairway from the first to the third floor is located along the west wall of the sidehall. There is a service stair from the first to the second floor in the rear wing. A stair to the basement is at the northwest corner of the house.
3. Flooring: 1 1/2" Hardwood flooring with inlaid perimeter pattern in parlor and room immediately adjacent to the north. Present dining room, side entry at rear service stair, and kitchen have mosaic tile.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Painted plaster.
5. Doorways and doors: Large wooden doors with raised wooden moldings and casings.
6. Decorative features and trim: Extensive cornices and painted panels with figures. Wooden mantel pieces in double parlor, dining room and second-floor bedrooms.
7. Hardware: Ornamented cast bronze door escutcheons and door handles.
8. Light fixtures: Combination gas and electric ornamental lighting fixtures in entry and north room of double front parlor.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: This house is located on the north side of Dayton Street in the block once known as "Millionaires Row."
2. Outbuildings: There is a carriage house at the rear of the lot.

Prepared by: J. William Rudd
Project Supervisor
National Park Service
August, 1974

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These data are part of the documentation made during the 1974 Cincinnati Project undertaken by HABS in cooperation with the Miami Purchase Association and City of Cincinnati. Records were made of a part of the Dayton Street Historic interest Area of the City of Cincinnati.

The project was under the general supervision of John Poppeliers, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. The project supervisor was J. William Rudd of the University of Cincinnati. The project historian was Carl A. Saladino of the Ohio State University. The measured drawings for the project were prepared by architects Steven B. Kells (University of Cincinnati) and Richard Wyatt (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo), and student assistant architects William Maxwell Miller (University of Pennsylvania) and Osbourne K. Simms III (University of Illinois, Chicago Circle). The photographs were taken by HABS photographer Jack E. Boucher in July 1982.